9/16/86 S8895-1

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 23 NO. 9 SEPT. 1986

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	June '86	July '86
Labor Force	262,659	260,212
Employment	238,297	236,743
Unemployment	24,362	23,469
Rate (Raw)	9.3	9.0
Rate (S.A.)	9.5	9.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.20	$14.42
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.0	41.0
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.1	6.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.51	$12.42
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.9	41.8
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	327.9	328.0
Denver (Bimonthly)		358.4
Year Change (U.S.)	+1.7	+1.6

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of **Trends** *be sure to see these articles:*

— National Unemployment Declines
— Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Facts
— Wyoming's Lumber Shows Slight Rebound in 1985
— More Applicants, More Unfilled Job Openings?

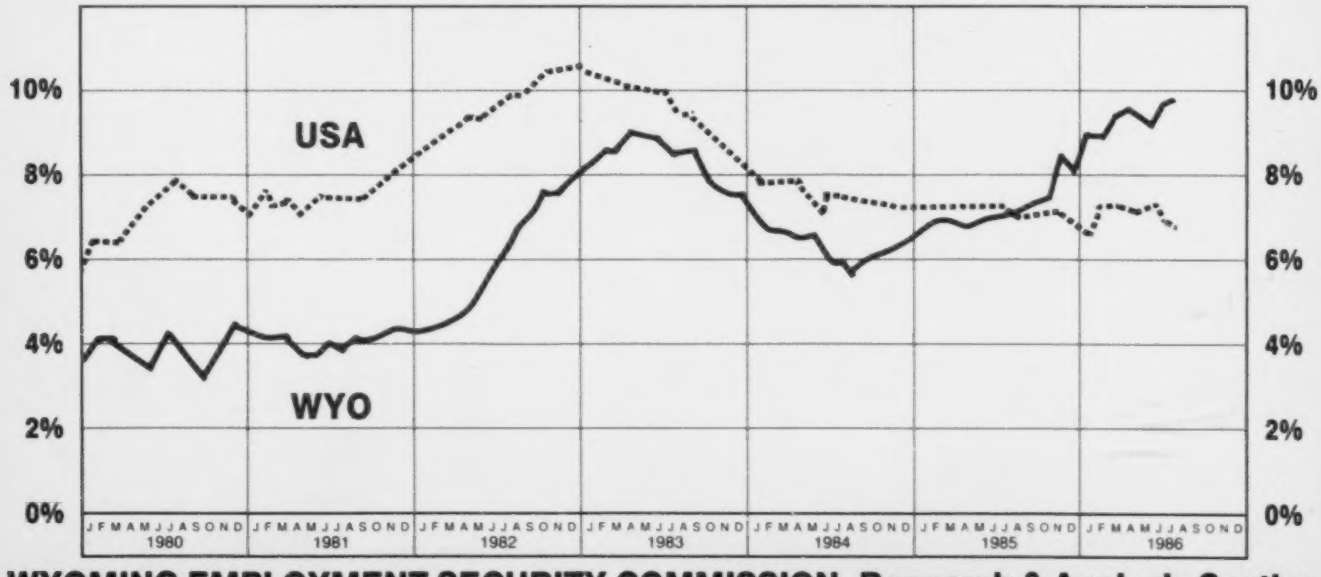
THE NATION

In July, 8.2 million were unemployed in the U.S. when the unemployment rate dropped for the second consecutive month. The civilian unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, stood at 6.9 percent, down from the June rate of 7.1 percent and the July 1985 rate of 7.3 percent. The July rate was the lowest since January of this year when a 6.7 rate was recorded.

In July, the lowest unemployment rate, 5.3 percent, was held by adult women. Adult men followed closely behind with a rate of 5.5 percent.

The average duration of unemployment in the U.S. during July was 15.0 weeks, down a bit from the 15.5 weeks experienced a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

IN WYOMING

Wyoming's unemployment rate in July edged downward slightly to 9.0 percent, compared to the June, 1986 rate of 9.3 percent. That rate of decline for July is about normal. As of the end of June, Wyoming's unemployment rate ranked eighth highest in the nation, behind Alabama and Michigan.

July's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.7 percent, compared to 9.5 percent in June and was far ahead of the July, 1985 rate of 6.9 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 6.9 percent in July.

The July labor force declined from June, statewide, by over 2,400 workers to just over 260,200 and as in the previous month, was down by nearly three percent from the July, 1985 labor force total of 267,600. The employed labor force was again down on an annual basis, by 13,600 workers, while the number of unemployed was up by more than 6,100 over the same period.

Year-to-year declines in labor force were experienced in 18 counties around the state, while the other four showed some modest rate gains, most notable being Sweetwater and Lincoln counties. Sweetwater and Campbell counties had the largest numerical gains in labor force over-the-year.

Eight counties had unemployment rates greater than ten percent during July, with Big Horn again having the highest, at 14.5 percent. Weston, Uinta, Converse and Fremont counties had jobless rates of 12.5, 12.4, 12.4 and 12.3 percent respectively. Natrona County, as usual, had far and away the largest number of unemployed, nearly 4,300, and an unemployment rate of 12.2 percent, up from 11.9 the previous month.

Teton and Albany counties enjoyed the lowest unemployment rates in the state with rates of 3.3 and 4.5 percent, respectively.

Various heavy construction projects around the state have spurred what little improvement there was in the economy during July, while mining, oil and gas extraction, oilfield related services, trade and transportation continued to be the most depressed industries.

NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES

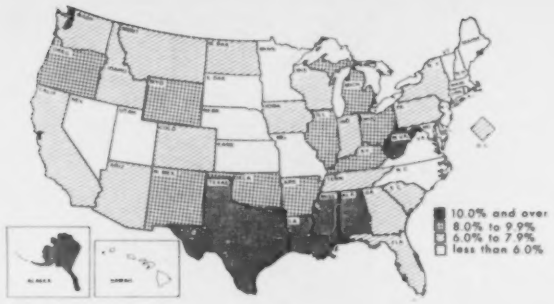
Comparing June, 1985 to June 1986, unemployment in 29 states declined. Seven of these states and the District of Columiba enjoyed declines of one percentage point or more. The largest decline, 1.9 percent, took place in Nevada. In eight of the states, unemployment rates increased by one percent or more over-the-year.

As everyone knows, the largest employment losses in oil and gas extraction and related industries were painfully evident during the first half of the year. Texas suffered the largest jump in unemployment—3.4 percent—swelling its' jobless rate to 11.1 percent in June, which was almost two percent higher than in Wyoming.

There were 19 states which had unemployment rates below six percent. New Hampshire was the lowest, with 3.2 percent, followed by Rhode Island with 3.6 percent, Connecticut and Massachusetts, both with 3.7 percent, and Maryland, with 3.9 percent.

Louisiana had the highest jobless rate, with 13.6 percent, followed by Mississippi with 12.6 percent. Alabama, Alaska, Texas and West Virginia also had unemployment rates of 10 percent or higher. (See the map.)

Unemployment Rates by State, June 1986



WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FACTS

- Taxable wage base for 1986: $9,900
- Taxable wage base for 1987: $10,300
- Maximum employer tax rate for 1986 and 1987: 9.75 percent
- Minimum employer tax rate for 1986 and 1987: 1.25 percent
- Average tax rate compared to total wages for calendar year 1986: 1.8285 percent
- Maximum weekly benefit amount for 1986: $192
- Maximum weekly benefit amount for 1987: $198
- Significant U.I. law changes in 1986 legislature: none

WYOMING'S LUMBER INDUSTRY SHOWS SLIGHT REBOUND IN 1985

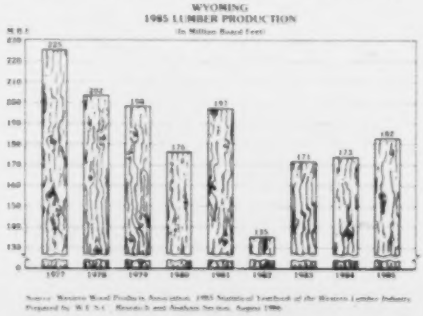
According to information presented in the Western Wood Products Association's *1985 Statistical Yearbook of the Western Lumber Industry*, Wyoming saw an increase in lumber production for 1985. The state's lumber production tbtaled 182 million board feet (MBF) in 1985, up from 173 MBF recorded in 1984. The state saw its' lowest production in recent years in 1982, a sparse 135 MBF.

The estimated wholesale value of the lumber produced in 1985 was $44.7 million. That is an increase of 6.7 percent over 1984, another sign that the industry is experiencing a slight rebound.

Although the production and value of Wyoming's lumber increased, employment is lagging. Total workers went from 1,254 in 1984 to 1,128 in 1985. Fewer workers are producing more lumber.

Most of Wyoming's lumber is sold to markets in the Midwest or to parts of the south central United States. Lodgepole pine makes up 54.4 percent of the lumber cut, while ponderosa pine accounts for another 33.7 percent. Less than one percent of Wyoming's lumber is exported to other countries.

The accompanying graph shows the annual production of lumber in Wyoming from 1977 through 1985.



MORE APPLICANTS, MORE UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS?

Recently compiled information from Wyoming's Job Service Centers show the number of active file applicants up 24.3 percent from the second quarter of 1985 to the second quarter of 1986. During the same period the number of job openings fell 8.1 percent and the number of jobs going unfilled for 30 days or more increased by a whopping 85.7 percent.

What all this means is that more people are registered for fewer jobs, and that the jobs available are hard to fill. Why? One reason could be that the applicants lack the experience or training needed for the openings available. Another reason could be that the applicants are unwilling to accept many of the low paying service-type jobs that are available.

The following list includes job openings showing no action taken for 30 days or more. The list is divided into two groups, one that is hard to fill because the jobs require special training and experience, and a second that includes low paying, unpopular jobs.

JOB OPENINGS WITH ESARS[1] RECORDS SHOWING NO ACTION TAKEN FOR 30 DAYS OR MORE[2]

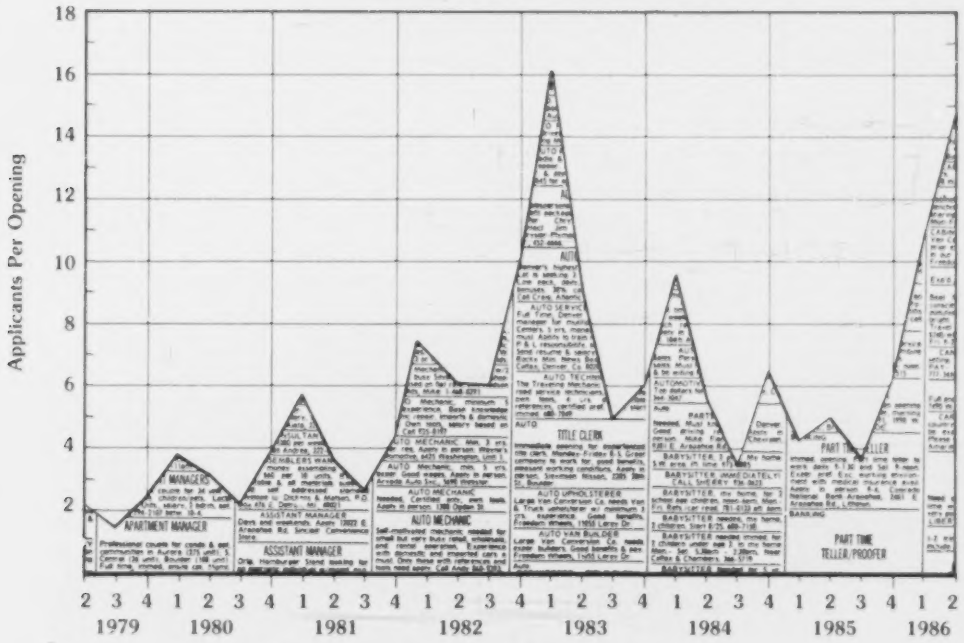
PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1986

EDUCATION OR EXPERIENCE		LOW PAYING SERVICE-TYPE	
Construction Worker II	194	Kitchen Helper	21
Pipe Fitter	185	Waiter/Waitress, Informal	19
Electrician	84	Painter	19
Operating Engineer	76	Cleaner, Housekeeping	15
Truck Driver, Heavy	36	Cook	14
Millwright	29	Material Handler	11
Construction Worker I	26	Sales Clerk	7

1. Employment Security Automated Reporting System
2. No action taken means that the position may have been filled but the transaction has not yet been recorded into the ESARS System.

The accompanying graph plots the ratio of the number of applicants per job openings at Wyoming Job Service Centers. In the second quarter of 1986, the applicants per openings ratio increased to 14.8. This is the highest level since the first quarter of 1983. Generally, the lower this figure, the better is the economic health of the state.

NUMBER OF WYOMING JOB SERVICE APPLICANTS FOR EACH JOB OPENING RECEIVED
Second Quarter 1979-1986



Source: W.E.S.C., Employment Security Automated Reporting System
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, August, 1986.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
July 1986	328.0	312.2	361.5	274.4	203.2	304.7	434.8
Annual % Change	1.6	3.5	2.8	3.3	0.2	- 5.3	7.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JUL 1986 [1]	JUN 1986 [1]	JUL 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	260,212	262,659	267,659	- 0.9	- 2.8
Unemployment	23,469	24,362	17,315	- 3.7	35.5
Employed Labor Force	236,743	238,297	250,344	- 0.7	- 5.4
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	200,200	201,100	199,377	- 0.4	0.4
b. Agriculture[3]	12,821	14,245	13,057	- 10.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	9.0% 9.7%*	9.3% 9.5%*	6.5% 6.9%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.0% 6.9%*	7.3% 7.1%*	7.4% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.7%	3.8%	1.8%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 591.22	$ 582.20	$ 555.77	1.5	6.4
Average Weekly Hours	41.0	41.0	42.2	0.0	- 2.8
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.42	$ 14.20	$ 13.17	1.5	9.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	37,121	35,325	19,016	5.1	95.2
a. Initial	4,535	3,539	2,587	28.1	75.3
Weeks Compensated	33,177	29,559	14,019	12.2	136.7
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 5,443,462	$ 4,838,378	$ 2,078,018	12.5	162.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 163.73	$ 163.31	$ 147.01	0.3	11.4
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	5,859	2,968	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	4,135	3,110	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	3,914	2,376	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 519.16	$ 524.17	$ 510.18	- 1.0	1.8
Average Weekly Hours	41.8	41.9	42.8	- 0.2	- 2.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.42	$ 12.51	$ 11.92	- 0.7	4.2
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	328.0	327.9	322.8	0.0	1.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities	297.7	298.9	309.5	- 0.4	- 3.8
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	312.2	309.5	301.6	0.9	3.5

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUL 1986	JUN 1986	JUL 1985	%CHANGE JUN-JUL	%CHANGE JUL-JUL	JUL 1986	JUN 1986	JUL 1985	JUL 1986	JUN 1986	JUL 1985
Statewide	260,212	262,659	267,659	- 0.9	- 2.8	23,469	24,362	17,315	9.0	9.3	6.5
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.7	9.5	6.9
Albany	15,457	15,757	16,009	- 1.9	- 3.4	697	803	633	4.5	5.1	4.0
Big Horn	4,904	5,069	5,078	- 3.3	- 3.4	712	709	463	14.5	14.0	9.1
Campbell	20,217	20,383	19,770	- 0.8	2.3	2,080	2,193	1,399	10.3	10.8	7.1
Carbon	8,418	8,567	9,134	- 1.7	- 7.8	803	926	637	9.5	10.8	7.0
Converse	6,540	6,680	6,733	- 2.1	- 2.9	812	885	580	12.4	13.3	8.6
Crook	3,101	3,250	3,171	- 4.6	- 2.2	242	256	139	7.8	7.9	4.4
Fremont	15,691	16,332	17,129	- 3.9	- 8.4	1,929	2,104	1,855	12.3	12.9	10.8
Goshen	6,018	6,177	6,434	- 2.6	- 6.5	403	366	337	6.7	5.9	5.2
Hot Springs	2,831	2,955	3,134	- 4.2	- 9.7	266	317	189	9.4	10.7	6.0
Johnson	3,327	3,457	3,729	- 3.8	- 10.8	295	306	237	8.9	8.8	6.3
Laramie	35,806	35,925	36,244	- 0.3	- 1.2	1,941	2,148	2,011	5.4	6.0	5.5
Lincoln	9,859	9,825	9,569	0.3	3.0	1,031	960	605	10.5	9.8	6.3
Natrona	35,116	35,301	37,354	- 0.5	- 6.0	4,288	4,208	2,840	12.2	11.9	7.6
Niobrara	1,670	1,747	1,817	- 4.4	- 8.1	135	153	131	8.1	8.8	7.2
Park	15,863	15,908	15,958	- 0.3	- 0.6	1,368	1,513	827	8.6	9.5	5.2
Platte	3,454	3,655	3,732	- 5.5	- 7.4	340	332	301	9.9	9.1	8.1
Sheridan	12,503	12,823	13,542	- 2.5	- 7.7	851	958	869	6.8	7.5	6.4
Sublette	4,076	4,128	3,993	- 1.3	2.1	285	354	168	7.0	8.6	4.2
Sweetwater	22,608	22,292	21,944	1.4	3.0	2,193	1,978	1,326	9.7	8.9	6.0
Teton	12,453	11,914	12,654	4.5	- 1.6	416	448	395	3.3	3.8	3.1
Uinta	12,177	12,149	11,862	0.2	2.7	1,505	1,526	798	12.4	12.6	6.7
Washakie	5,018	5,074	5,275	- 1.1	- 4.9	487	541	358	9.7	10.7	6.8
Weston	3,106	3,288	3,393	- 5.5	- 8.5	388	378	217	12.5	11.5	6.4
United States									7.0	7.3	7.4
United States - Seasonally adjusted									6.9	7.1	7.3

* The data contained in this table updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 *(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUL 1986[2]	JUN 1986[3]	JUL 1985	JUN 1986	JUL 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1986	to JUL 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	203.0	205.8	214.1	- 1.4	- 5.2
Manufacturing	8.0	8.1	8.1	- 1.2	- 1.2
Durable Goods	3.9	3.9	4.1	0.0	- 4.9
Nondurable Goods	4.1	4.2	4.0	- 2.4	2.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	195.0	197.7	206.0	- 1.4	- 5.3
Mining	21.9	22.1	26.1	- 0.9	- 16.1
Contract Construction	16.3	15.8	18.2	3.2	- 10.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.6	14.7	15.1	- 0.7	- 3.3
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	2.4	0.0	20.8
Transportation except Railroads	5.4	5.4	6.0	0.0	- 10.0
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.4	6.7	- 1.6	- 6.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.9	44.3	47.7	1.4	- 5.9
Wholesale Trade	8.9	8.9	9.5	0.0	- 6.3
Retail Trade	36 1	35.4	38.2	2.0	- 5.5
Food Stores	5.1	5.0	5.4	2.0	- 5.6
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.2	5.9	6.6	5.1	- 6.1
Eating & Drinking Places	13.0	12.7	13.6	2.4	- 4.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.1	8.0	8.1	1.3	0.0
Services	37.8	37.4	40.7	1.1	- 7.1
Personal Services	1.9	2.0	1.9	- 5.0	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.0	6.9	6.3	1.4	11.1
Government	51.3	55.4	50.0	- 7.4	2.6
Federal Government	8.5	8.5	9.4	0.0	- 9.6
State & Local Government	42.8	46.9	40.6	- 8.7	5.4
State Government	13.5	13.9	13.3	- 2.9	1.5
Local Government	29.3	33.0	27.3	- 11.2	7.3

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUL 1986[2]	JUN 1986[3]	JUL 1985	JUN 1986	JUL 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1986	to JUL 1986
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.6	30.2	33.0	- 2.0	- 10.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	- 7.1
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.3	28.9	31.6	- 2.1	- 10.4
Mining	3.3	3.5	4.5	- 5.7	- 26.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.1	3.2	4.1	- 3.1	- 24.4
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	- 25.0
Contract Construction	2.2	2.0	2.2	10.0	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.9	2.1	- 5.3	- 14.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.3	8.4	9.6	- 1.2	- 13.5
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	3.3	0.0	- 18.2
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	6.3	0.0	- 11.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services	5.3	5.3	6.0	0.0	- 11.7
Government	5.8	6.3	5.6	- 7.9	3.6
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.1	5.7	4.9	- 10.5	4.1
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.0	31.1	31.2	- 0.3	- 0.6
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.9	30.0	30.1	- 0.3	- 0.7
Contract Construction	2.1	1.9	2.2	10.5	- 4.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.8	6.6	7.3	3.0	- 6.8
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Retail Trade	6.1	5.9	6.4	3.4	- 4.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	- 1.9
Government	10.2	10.7	9.9	- 4.7	3.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
State & Local Government	7.5	8.0	7.4	- 6.2	1.4

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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